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TWENTY PORTRAITS

BY


MUKUL DEY

Associate of the Royal College of Art, London;
Member of the Chicago Society of Etchers;
Principal, Government School of Art, Calcutta;
Keeper, Government Art Gallery; Art Section and
a Trustee of Indian Museum, Calcutta. Formerly
Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, London;
Formerly Member of the Advisory Committee for
Mural Decoration at New Delhi and India House,
London; Author of "Twelve Portraits", Calcutta
1917; "My Pilgrimages to Ajanta and Bagh",
Thornton Butterworth, London 1923; "Fifteen
Drypoints", Calcutta 1939.



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To
Dr. BIMALA CHURN LAW

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

IN 1917, I published my book of "Twelve Portraits" representing twelve prominent men of Bengal. Sir John Woodroffe, the then acting Chief Justice of Bengal, kindly wrote the Introduction to the book.

Since then, I have met many persons in different walks of life in my extensive travels from East to West. My long cherished desire for drawing portraits revived. I would often make sketches of those persons, at first playfully, and then took up the work seriously. My portfolio became gradually heavy with my drawings of men and women whom I met. To bring out some of these pencil, red chalk and drypoint portraits in a book form had been my dream for the last fifteen years, during which I was engaged in reconstructing the Government School of Art in Calcutta.

Suddenly, in December 1942, Dr. Bimala Churn Law gave me sufficient encouragement and enthusiasm to publish these "Twenty Portraits" selected at random from my portfolio which I have carried for the last twenty-five years as my most precious possession.

The memory of the faces portrayed here will always be the shining lamp in my life. If these portraits bring a little joy to those who see them, that will be my reward.

I am grateful to all my friends who have encouraged me to publish this book. I hope they will accept my silent tribute to their kindness and friendship

M. D.

February 12, 1943.

28, Chowringhee,

Calcutta.

LIST OF PORTRAITS

BY

MUKUL DEY

1917—1942

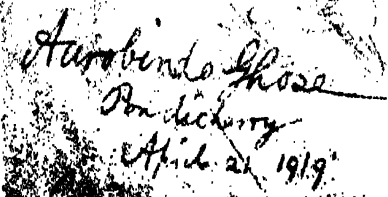
1. SRI AUROBINDO GHOSE.
Autographed. Done at Pondicherry, on April 21, 1919.
Pencil Drawing. Size 10 by 14 inches.
2. SIR MAURICE GWYER.
Autographed. Done in New Delhi, on October 30, 1942.
Drypoint. Size $9\frac{1}{2}$ by 11 inches.
3. RABINDRANATH TAGORE.
Autographed. Done in Calcutta, in 1932.
Drypoint. Size $5\frac{1}{2}$ by $6\frac{7}{8}$ inches.
4. ANNIE BESANT.
Autographed. Done in Calcutta, on October 4, 1917.
Pencil Drawing. Size $9\frac{7}{8}$ by 14 inches.
5. SIR JOHN ANDERSON.
Autographed. Done in Calcutta, on July 8, 1937.
Drypoint. Size 8 by 10 inches.
6. C. F. ANDREWS.
Autographed. Done in Calcutta, in February 1928.
Pencil Drawing. Size $6\frac{7}{8}$ by 10 inches.
7. W. W. PEARSON.
Autographed. Done in London, on August 10, 1923.
Pencil Drawing. Size 10 by 14 inches.
8. ALBERT EINSTEIN.
Autographed on Copper Plate. Done in Berlin, in August 1926.
Drypoint. Size $4\frac{1}{2}$ by $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

9. SVEN HEDIN.
Autographed on Copper Plate. Done in Berlin, in August 1926.
Drypoint. Size $4\frac{1}{2}$ by $5\frac{7}{8}$ inches.
10. SAROJINI NAIDU.
Autographed. Done in Madras, in April 1918.
Pencil Drawing. Size $11\frac{3}{8}$ by $17\frac{1}{2}$ inches.
11. SIR FRANCIS YOUNGHUSBAND.
Autographed. Done in Calcutta, in March 1937.
Drypoint. Size $5\frac{3}{8}$ by $6\frac{7}{8}$ inches.
12. ERNEST O'G. KIRWAN.
Autographed. Done in Calcutta, on December 12, 1942.
Red Chalk Drawing. Size 10 by 14 inches.
13. SARAT CHANDRA CHATTERJI.
Autographed. Done in Calcutta, on September 17, 1937.
Red Chalk Drawing. Size 10 by 14 inches.
14. GEORGE S. ARUNDALE.
Autographed. Done in Calcutta, on November 26, 1941.
Red Chalk Drawing. Size 12 by 14 inches.
15. SIR DORABJI TATA.
Done in Bombay, in 1918.
Pencil Drawing. Size 10 by $13\frac{1}{4}$ inches.
16. RUKMINI DEVI.
Autographed. Done in Calcutta, on November 26, 1941.
Red Chalk Drawing. Size 12 by 14 inches.
17. BIMALA CHURN LAW.
Autographed. Done in Calcutta, on December 3, 1942.
Pencil Drawing. Size 10 by 14 inches.
18. WERNER KEVENTER.
Autographed. Done at Aligarh, on September 7, 1942.
Red Chalk Drawing. Size 9 by $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches.
19. MOHANCHAND KARAMCHAND GANDHI.
Autographed on Copper Plate. Done at Sabarmati, in March 1928.
Drypoint. Size 6 by $7\frac{7}{8}$ inches.
20. ABANINDRA NATH TAGORE.
Autographed. Done in Calcutta, in December 1937.
Drypoint. Size $7\frac{7}{8}$ by $9\frac{7}{8}$ inches.

SRI AUROBINDO GHOSE

SRI AUROBINDO started life as a teacher in a modern college and developed into a revolutionary. Being dissatisfied with life, he at last found an anchorage in his mysticism at peace with the world. Once believing in the supremacy of environment to mind, he discovered the necessity of a spiritual regeneration. Born on August 15, 1872, and educated at Cambridge, the life story of Sri Aurobindo is the adventure of a lonely soul. He was the sponsor of the first group of revolutionary anarchists and turned from revolution to reorganization. The transition from what was essentially a product of the English education and culture to Sri Aurobindo is a process of shaking away the non-essential appendages to human life for the realization of the eternal spirit of man.

This pencil sketch of Sri Aurobindo, reproduced here, was done by the Artist in 1919, when he specially travelled to Pondicherry to meet the Yogi. What impressed the Artist most were the eyes of the Modern Rishi—the eyes that look into eternity, beyond the orbits of space and time.



Aurobindo Ghose
Pondicherry
April 21, 1919

The Honourable Sir MAURICE GWYER

SIR MAURICE TINFORD GWYER, M.A., D.C.L. (Oxon.), K.C.B., K.C.S.I., although a man of law, has that mellowness of character which is born of a deep sympathy with one's fellow beings and a profound love for the things of the spirit disciplined by true scholarship.

Born on April 25, 1878, he was educated at Westminster, and Christ Church, Oxford, and was the fellow of All Souls from 1902–1916. He was called to the Bar at Inner Temple in 1902, and became a Bencher in 1937. He has been the Legal Adviser to the Ministry of Shipping (1916–1919); Legal Adviser to the Ministry of Health (1919–26); H. M. Procurator-General and Solicitor to Treasury (1926–33); First Parliamentary Counsel to Treasury (1934–37). He is now the Chief Justice of India, and Vice-Chancellor of the Delhi University.

In October 1942, Sir Maurice gave many patient sittings to the Artist at Delhi.



Guerra Fuga

1944-1945

RABINDRANATH TAGORE

BORN in Calcutta, on May 6, 1861, Tagore had the exceptional good fortune of coming into contact from his early childhood with a cultured environment set ready at his home to receive and develop a genius. The youngest son of Maharshi Devendranath Tagore, and the grandson of Prince Dwarkanath Tagore, he found a home where on the foundation of ancient Hindu traditions the Western culture brought to India in the eighteenth century, grew spontaneously.

After an incomplete education in the usual type of schools from where he had run away, he left for England at the age of 17, and studied for a short time in the University College, London.

Years after coming back from England he passed through the torments of self-expression but survived the dark hours of the soul. In 1901 he founded an educational institution at Santiniketan on the line of the ancient Indian Ashram which, however, in its modernity, resembled a high-class public school. The keynote of Tagore's character is the happy mingling of medievalism with modernism.

In 1912, he went to England again and published his first work in English "Gitanjali" which at once brought him an international fame. Before that, Tagore's songs, set to music by himself were sung from the Himalayas to Cape Comorin. In 1913, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature. After a life epic in its range of expression and achievement, the Poet breathed his last in the same home where he first saw light, on August 11, 1941.

This drypoint begun in London in 1925 was finished in 1932, when the Poet was staying with the Artist at the Government School of Art, Calcutta. The Poet engraved his own name in Bengali on the copper plate, and also signed his name on the proof.



ANNIE BESANT

THE key to Annie Besant's character was a total disaffection with life as she found it, resulting in a revolt against social, moral, political and intellectual order of the world. In later years of life in Theosophy she found solace and perhaps, one may venture to assume, peace of her soul.

Born on October 1, 1847, as Annie Wood, she married Rev. Frank Besant, the Vicar of Sibsey in Lincolnshire, in 1867. Her education was varied and extensive. In 1874 she joined the National Secular Society, and in conjunction with Charles Bradlaugh, M.P., the sponsor of the Free Thinking and Radical Movements, she edited the "National Reformer". Between the years 1874 and 1888, she wrote copiously on Politics and Sociology and was associated with socialist movements. In 1889 she joined the Theosophical Society, and a few years later she made India her home.

This pencil portrait was done in 1917, shortly after her release from prison. She was on a visit to Jorasanko to meet Poet Tagore where the Artist completed this portrait within a quarter of an hour, while she was talking to the Poet.





Michael D.

CHARLES FREER ANDREWS

CHARLES ANDREWS was and remained till his death in Calcutta on April 4, 1940, a Christian. But lately his religion was not Christianity, he followed Christ's religion. Born on February 12, 1871, at Carlisle, he was educated at Cambridge where, after taking his degree, he joined the Pembroke College Mission in 1896. He obtained a Fellowship at Pembroke College in 1900 and joined the Cambridge Brotherhood at Delhi in 1904.

In 1913 he came to Rabindranath Tagore's institution at Santiniketan, and his association with the Poet lasted till the end. Andrews never took anything, but gave everything. His life showed that only with the spirit of love and service can man transcend the narrow boundaries of nationalism, territories and dogmatic creeds.

This portrait was the result of a sitting given by "Charlie" Andrews in Calcutta to the Artist in February 1928.



WILLIAM WINSTANLEY PEARSON

“ **W**ILLIE ” PEARSON'S love for man made one doubtful of one's own love. The spark of love which he left at Santiniketan, where he spent his later years, spread out into the flame of a hospital named after him.

Born at Manchester, on May 7, 1881, Winstanley Pearson graduated from Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and later obtained his post-graduate degree from the same university. He arrived in India as a Professor of Botany at the London Mission Society's Institution in Calcutta. In 1912, he became a member of the staff of St. Stephen's College, Delhi. In 1913, like Andrews, he became attracted towards Poet Tagore and came to live at Santiniketan. In 1916-17, when Rabindranath toured Japan and America, Pearson and the Artist accompanied him. Whilst in America Pearson published his book “ Santiniketan—the Bolpur School of Rabindranath Tagore ”. The Artist was specially commissioned by the publishers to illustrate this work.

On his way back to India, Pearson stayed on in China and was deported by the British Government and taken over to England. He was, however, permitted to come back to Santiniketan. It was at Santiniketan that the Artist met Pearson in 1913, and since then a deep bond of friendship united them for ever.

On the morning of August 10, 1923, the day Pearson left England for Italy, he had come to the Artist's studio in London. “ Willie ”, said the Artist, “ anything may happen to you or me, let me draw your portrait.” The Artist never thought that this would be the last portrait he could ever draw of Willie Pearson.

On September 18, 1923, while travelling from Milan to Florence, Pearson was leaning out of the carriage-door which a careless passenger had left unlatched, and then the dreadful accident occurred. He passed away peacefully on the afternoon of September 25, 1923.



ALBERT EINSTEIN

SCIENCE has its own spirituality. Scientists are not, as is often supposed, materialists. They represent that indomitable spirit of man which is eternally seeking to bring out the unity from the apparent chaos of the universe.

Professor Albert Einstein was born on March 14, 1879. He successively became the Director of Kaiser Wilhelm Institute für Physik; The Professor of Physics, Pr. Akademik der Wissenschaften, Berlin; and is now a permanent member of Institute for advanced study, Princetown, N. J., being an exile from Nazi Germany. In 1921, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics. Besides publishing his scientific books on Relativity (English translation 1920), he has also published books on Philosophy and Sociology; Zionism (English translation, 1930); Why War? (In conjunction with Sigmund Freud) 1933; The World As I See It; My Philosophy, etc.

In 1926 this drypoint portrait of the great Scientist was done at the home of the Professor in Berlin under the shade of Newton's portrait, while the Physicist was working on a problem of equation.



Mustard Day

SVEN HEDIN

SVEN HEDIN should have been a wandering friar of the Middle Ages. Born on February 19, 1865, at the age of seventy-eight he still preserves the daring romanticism of his youthful years. He was educated in Stockholm, Upsala, Berlin and Halle. His scientific attainments and remarkable explorations have brought him honours from different lands. He was made a Noble of the Realm by the King of Sweden, and created a K.C.I.E. in 1909. Honorary degrees have also been conferred on him by the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Breslau, Rostock, Heidelberg and Karlsruhe. In moments of despair and unhappiness we may turn to his books for the vision of those lands where there is sheer joy of living.

This drypoint portrait of Dr. Hedin was done within fifteen minutes one day in early August of 1926 when the great explorer was staying at the Hotel Kaiserhoff in Berlin. Among the surroundings of a modern hotel the Artist got a glimpse of that keen searching glance of the explorer which seems to see into the far distance of some invisible desert.



Dr Sven Hedin

Hindul Jey



SAROJINI NAIDU

SAROJINI NAIDU is a poet by birth and a politician by choice. The dual personalities are constantly struggling within her to gain supremacy of the one over the other. Born at Hyderabad, Deccan, on February 13, 1879, she is a Bengali by birth, Deccanni by domicile, and the most Indian of Indians by ideal. She was educated at Hyderabad, King's College, London, and finally at Girton College, Cambridge. She has published three volumes of poems in English which have been translated into various European languages. Some of her verses have been set to music. She became the President of the Indian National Congress in 1925, and is prominently connected with the women's movements in India.

Anyone coming into her contact has always taken away with him the refreshing fragrance of the charm of her magnetic personality. This portrait was executed within an hour in 1918 in Madras.

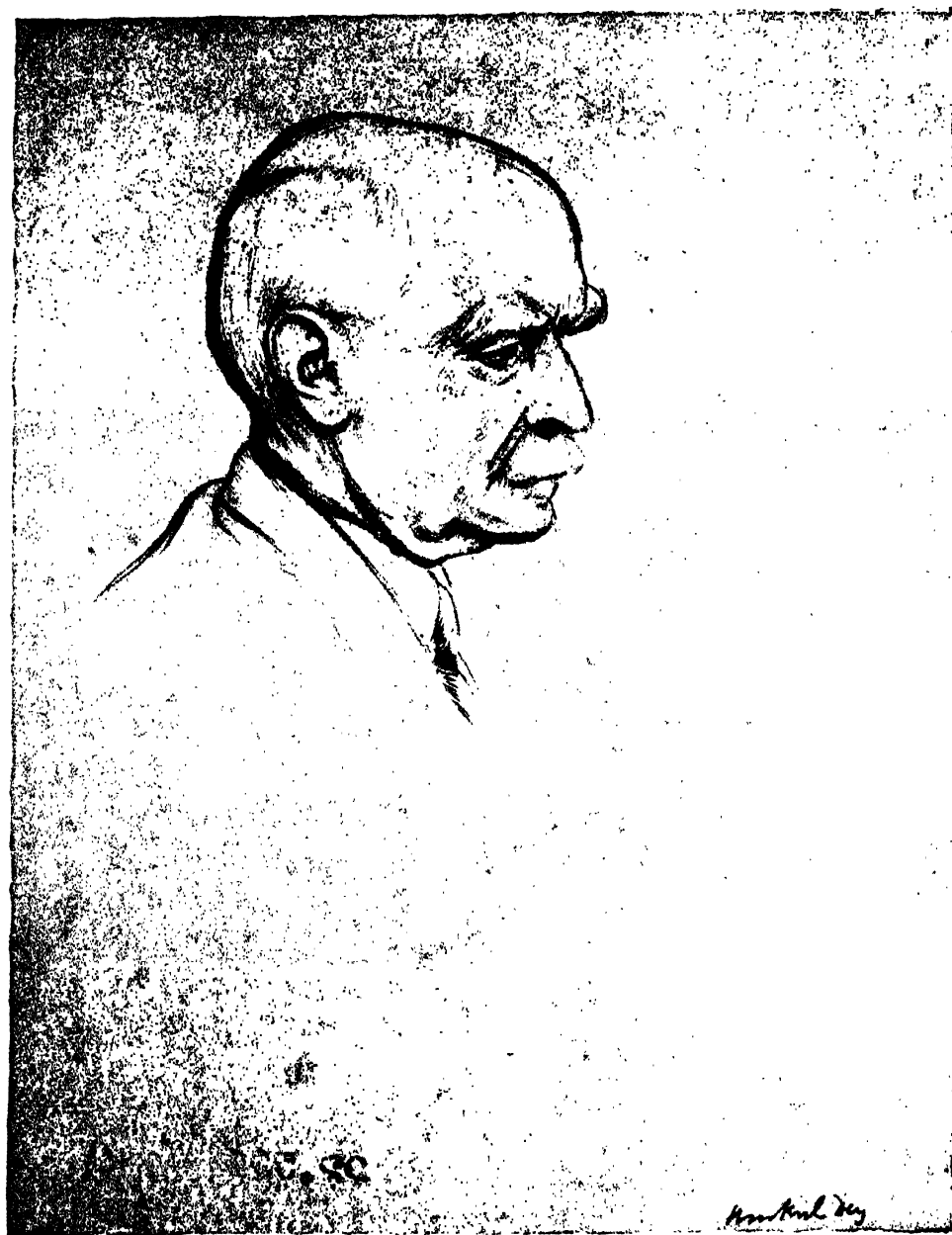


Sarajina Naidh Mar
1918

SIR FRANCIS EDWARD YOUNGHUSBAND

SIR FRANCIS YOUNGHUSBAND successively passed out from Clifton College and Sandhurst and joined the first Dragoon Guards in 1882. He was raised to the cadre of a Captain in 1889 and later transferred to the Indian Political Department in 1890. From his early years he was connected with the Royal Geographical Society. He joined the Chitral Expedition in 1895 as a special correspondent to the "Times". His explorations and visits to unknown lands are too numerous to be detailed here.

This drypoint was done, when Sir Francis came to Calcutta for the Ramkrishna Centenary in 1937. He used to come over to the Artist's studio every morning, walking from the Great Eastern Hotel. Two or three sittings completed the portrait in March 1937.



Francis Younghurst and March 1937

ERNEST WILLIAM O'GORMAN KIRWAN

LIEUT.-COL. KIRWAN was born in Dublin, Eire, on May 18, 1887. Educated at Belvedere College and University College, Dublin, Dr. Kirwan graduated M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. (R.U.I.), 1909; M.Sc. (Hon. N.U.I.), 1919; F.R.C.S.I., 1920; M.D. (N.U.I.), 1938. Entering the Indian Medical Service in 1910, he served in the last Great War in France, Mesopotamia and North-West Frontier India, 1914-19. He was created a C.I.E. in 1939.

Since 1929 Col. Kirwan is the Professor of Ophthalmology at the Medical College, Calcutta. He is also the Honorary Secretary to Association of the Prevention of Blindness, Bengal. Col. Kirwan is the author of many papers dealing with Ophthalmology.

Col. Kirwan is blessed by many a person who but for his unselfish aid and skill in curing blindness, would have remained sightless and shut out from the beauty of the world. This red chalk portrait of him was made by the Artist at his studio in Calcutta on December 12, 1942.



Ernest O'G. Kivwan
Dec. 12th 1942

SARAT CHANDRA CHATTERJI

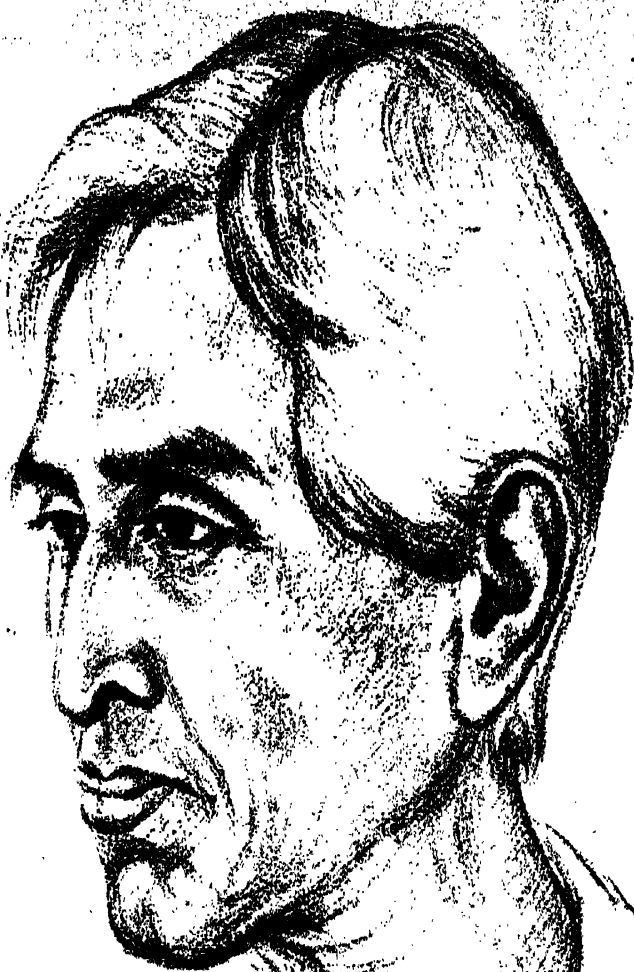
SARAT CHANDRA CHATTERJI came from a middle-class family of Bengal. He had the typical virtues and prejudices of the middle-class Bengali.

The themes of his novels were drawn from the middle-class Bengali life in provincial towns and villages. The Bengali novelists who went before him had to be content with romances of somewhat artificial life. But Sarat Chandra faced life and gave us convincing pictures drawn from real life of Bengal in its struggles and aspirations.

Born on September 15, 1876, at the village of Debanandapur in the District of Hooghly, in an orthodox middle-class Brahmin family, Sarat Chandra passed his boyhood and early youth with his maternal uncle at Bhagalpur from where he passed his Entrance examination. Soon after, however, he left off his studies and started on the nomadic life of a romantic wanderer. He visited many places and worked as a clerk in Rangoon, finally returning to Calcutta and settling down in Bengal.

Sarat Chandra had no message to give and no problem to solve in his writings. He saw life and enjoyed it and poured out his unique experiences in print so that others may see what he had seen and share his joy. He died in a Calcutta nursing home on Sunday, January 16, 1938.

This portrait was made by the Artist in Calcutta on September 17, 1937.



সরৎ চন্দ্র চট্টোপাধ্যায়
১২ অক্টোবর ১৯৩৭
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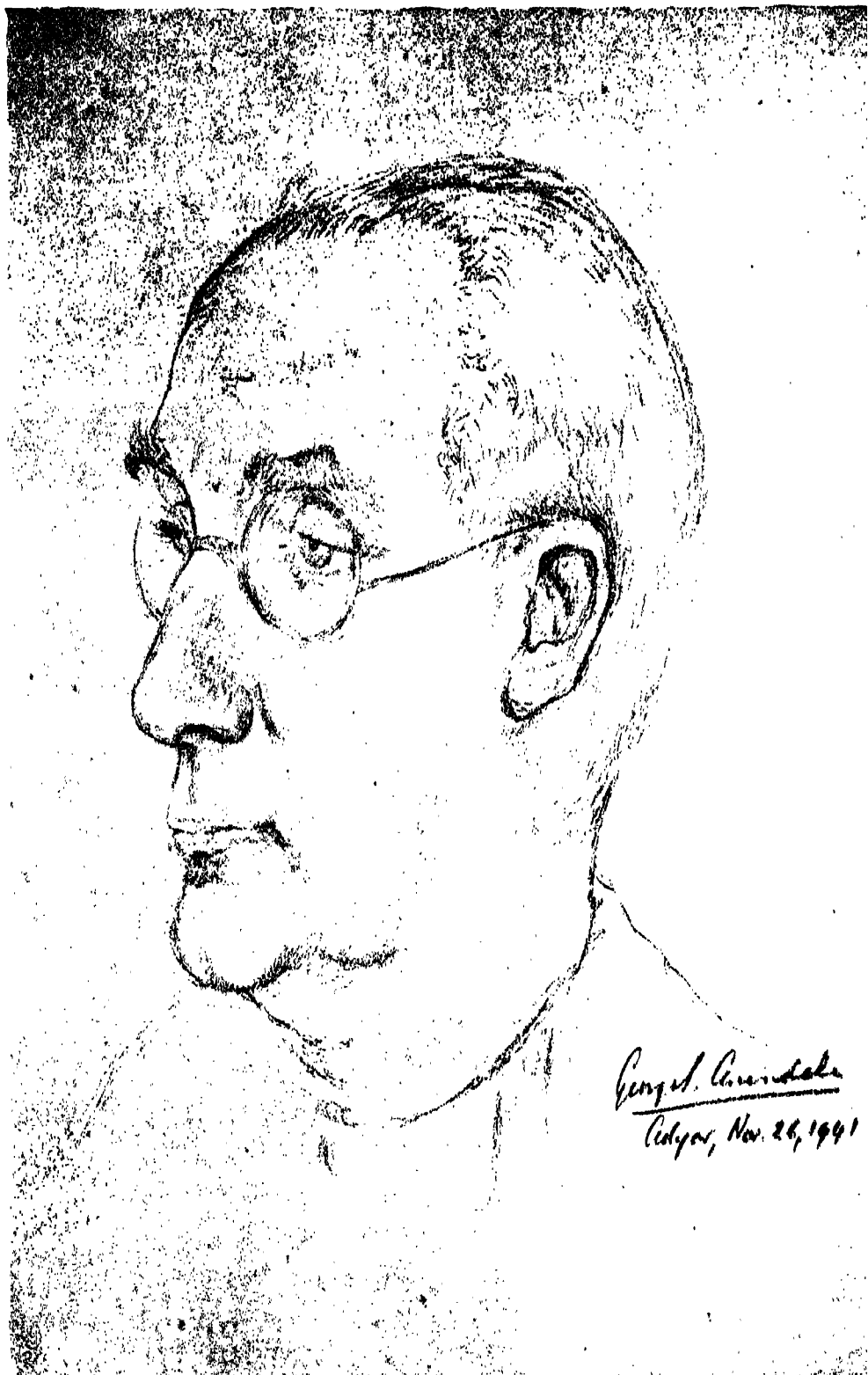
Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay
17th Sept 1937
Calcutta

Mukul Dey

GEORGE S. ARUNDALE

“THE East is East, and the West is West, and the twain shall never meet”—said Kipling. The life of Dr. Arundale and his mode of living it, have exploded the myth. George Arundale was born in Surrey, England, on December 1, 1878. Educated at Cambridge and on the Continent of Europe, he came out to India in 1903, and for forty years is intimately associated with the Theosophical Society. He has been in succession the Principal of the Central Hindu College, Benares (1909); the Principal of the National University, Madras, which in 1924 conferred its honorary degree of D. Litt. on him. He has also been the Minister of Education at Indore (1920). He was the General Secretary of the Theosophical Society in England, Australia and India and is now its President.

The Artist's work was done in Calcutta at his studio on November 26, 1941.



George S. Cline
Adyar, Nov. 26, 1941

SIR DORABJI TATA

THE name of the Tatas is now a household word. They are the pioneers of Steel Industry in India. Sir Dorabji Jamsetji Tata was the senior partner of Tata Sons & Co.

Born on August 27, 1859, he was the son of Jamsetji Nasorwanji Tata. After taking his degree from the Bombay University he was educated at Caius College, Cambridge. He died in Germany on June 3, 1932.

The Artist made two pencil portraits of Sir Dorabji Tata at his request in 1918, when the Artist was in Bombay.



RUKMINI DEVI

RUKMINI DEVI was born at Madura on February 29, 1904, of Brahmin parents. Rukmini Devi has raised the Art of Dancing from a mere physical activity to a spiritual experience. Her dances are offerings at a shrine. In 1920, she married Dr. Arundale. In 1940, she presided over Bharata-Natya section at the Tenth Oriental Conference. Rukmini Devi is the President of the South Indian Humanitarian Society; the Director of the Besant Theosophical School, Adyar; the President of the Madras Branch of the Sino-Indian Cultural Society. She also finds time to edit the "Young Citizen" and has written a book "Message of Beauty to Civilization".

This red chalk portrait of Rukmini Devi was done by the Artist on November 26, 1941, when she visited the Government School of Art.



Rukmini Devi

26 Nov 1941.

BIMALA CHURN LAW

DR. BIMALA CHURN LAW was born on October 26, 1891, in the well-known Law family of Calcutta. Graduated from the Presidency College, Calcutta, with Honours in 1914, he took his M.A. Degree (1st Class) in 1916, B.L. (Bachelor of Law), 1918, Ph.D., 1924, D.Litt., 1941, and carried away many prizes and scholarships awarded by the Calcutta University. He received King George V Silver Jubilee Medal in 1935, and George VI Coronation Medal in 1937. He is Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee Gold Medalist of the University of Calcutta.

He is a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal, Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society of London, Honorary Correspondent to the Archaeological Survey of India, President, Calcutta Geographical Society, Joint Editor of the Annual Bibliography of Indian Archaeology of the Kern Institute, a Member of the Governing Body of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal, Vice-President, British Indian Association, Indian School of Oriental Art, Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Indian Research Institute, and National Defence and Savings Week Committee held in Calcutta in 1941. He is a Justice of the Peace, and an Honorary Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta. He is also a Member of the Bengal Educational Society, Council of Education for Women, Indian Red Cross Society, The Calcutta War Committee, Automobile Association of Bengal, Scout Movement, Calcutta Health Committee, Calcutta Medical College Centenary Committee, The Board of Higher Studies of the University of Calcutta, and Honorary Member of the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Poona.

Dr. Law is a scholar of International repute and celebrated author of several well-known works on Ancient Indian History, Buddhism and Jainism.

He is the founder of several Free-studentships in the Calcutta Medical College, Bengal Engineering College, Government Commercial Institute, Bethune College, and the Dr. B. C. Law Trust Series in the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, for original Indological researches.

This portrait was done on December 3, 1942, in Calcutta. Comfort and luxury have not in any way impaired the fine sensibilities and keen scholarship of Dr. Law. In him material prosperity and spiritual activity have progressed side by side.



Mr. Paul Day

Bimala Ghosh Roy
Forster
3 1/2

WERNER KEVENTER

MR. KEVENTER has brought humanitarianism in business—a contradiction perhaps, but actually achieved by Werner Keventer. He has a mission. He cherishes hope of regenerating life of those apathetic creatures, who only live to die. Business has not sucked dry the interest of Mr. Keventer in books, art and music.

Born in Sweden, on November 25, 1884, W. Keventer was educated to be an architect and an engineer, but thirty years ago he came out to India to help his uncle Edward Keventer, in his business.

Edward Keventer after holding various appointments in England and Scotland had come out to India in 1889. In 1891, a small dairy was started on the Government Experimental Agriculture Farm at Aligarh. In 1899, Edward Keventer took over the farm from the Government and unselfishly worked till the end of his days. Keventer's milk and butter are now known all over India for their purity and life-giving properties. Werner Keventer is now the soul of this business.

This portrait of Werner Keventer was done at Aligarh on September 7, 1942.



MOHANCHAND KARAMCHAND GANDHI²

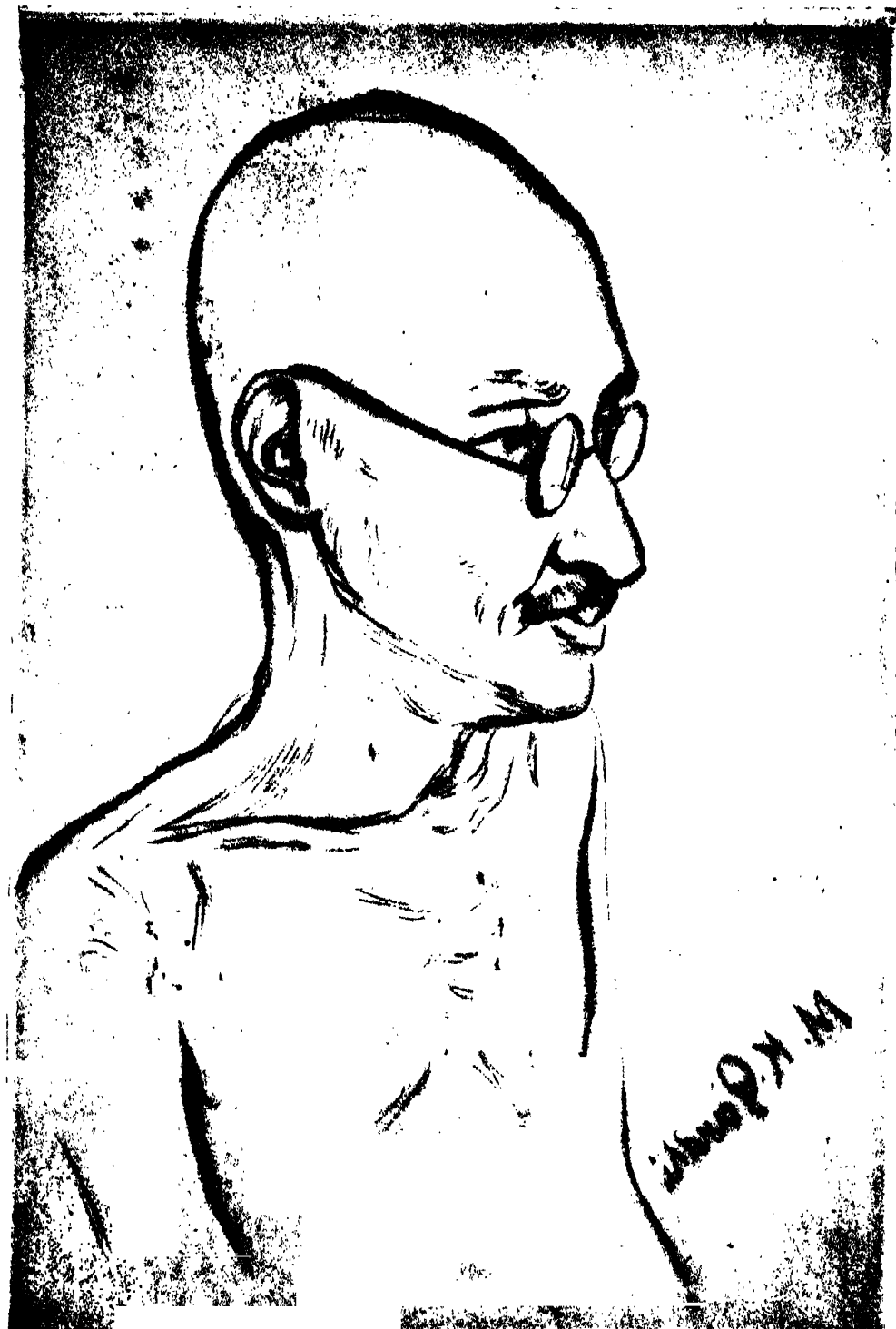
MOHANCHAND KARAMCHAND GANDHI was born on October 2, 1869. His has been a keenly vivid and purposeful existence. He was educated at Rajkot and Bhabnagar, and finally called to the Bar at Inner Temple. Even in the early days of Boer War and the Zulu Revolt in Natal, he was in charge of an Indian Ambulance Corps, and had half-formulated his creed of non-violence, which later became a source of political inspiration to him.

It was in Africa then, and later during the Great War, that Gandhi realized that he had a mission as a political reformer. He came out as a full-fledged politician in 1918 when he organized and led the Satyagraha movement. From then onwards he has associated himself with, and has been the incentive to, almost all the nationalist movements in India.

In 1924 he became the President of the Indian National Congress and in 1936 he led the famous, though somewhat melodramatic salt march. The breach of salt-laws found him interned from May 1930 till January 1931 in which year he attended the Round Table Conference in London.

Gandhi was quick to understand that to appeal to the mass of India his politics must have a religious flavour, and to be their leader he must be a Mahatma and live the life of one. Mahatma Gandhi's new creed appealed also to those Europeans who are unaccustomed to Politics being associated with a religious feeling.

In March 1928, the Artist stayed with the Mahatma a few days at his Sabarmati Asram, and there the Artist made this drypoint portrait. The plate, however, has been destroyed, and only a few copies are extant.



mahatma Gandhi

Dr. K. K. M.



Yaksha ", " Passing of Emperor Shah Jehan " and " The Queen of Asoka ",
painted for Her Majesty Queen Mary, will never die.

